

RELIEF OF DESTITUTE INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

*An estimate from the Secretary of the Interior for an appropriation for relief of destitute Indians, not having treaty funds, when necessary.*

FEBRUARY 28, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *February 27, 1890.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior of the 25th instant, submitting an estimate of appropriation for relief of destitute Indians, \$100,000, to be incorporated in the Indian appropriation bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891.

Respectfully yours,

GEO. S. BATCHELLER,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The SPEAKER HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., February 17, 1890.*

SIR: I have the honor to state that at the request of this office, and with the approval of the Department, Congress, by act approved March 3, 1885 (23 Stat., 379), provided an appropriation, in the sum of \$50,000, "to supply food and other necessities of life in cases of distress among the Indians not having treaty funds, arising from emergencies not foreseen or otherwise provided for, to be used at the discretion of the President."

This fund has been used from time to time to relieve the urgent wants of various Indian tribes in distress from failure of crops, sickness, and extreme poverty, with great success, and is now entirely exhausted.

In view of the fact that emergencies not foreseen and not otherwise provided for are constantly arising—notably in the cases of the Chippewas of Lake Superior in Wisconsin and the Devil's Lake Indians in North Dakota—it is the opinion of this office that Congress should be called upon to re-enact this provision of law, by making an appropria-

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tion for the relief of Indians in distress; and I earnestly recommend that the Department will approve and forward this request, through the proper channel, for the action of Congress, in order that the sum named may be incorporated in the bill making appropriation for the Indian service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891. I enclose a form of the proposed legislation to be inserted in the bill.

Very respectfully,

T. J. MORGAN,  
*Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Indorsement.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*February 25, 1890.*

Respectfully forwarded to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury for the favorable consideration of Congress, and request that the proposed appropriation be incorporated in the Indian appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1891.

JOHN W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary.*

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*Proposed appropriation to be incorporated in the Indian appropriation bill, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891.*

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To supply food and other necessities of life in cases of distress among the Indians not having treaty funds, arising from emergencies not foreseen or otherwise provided for, to be used at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior..... \$100,000

And a report of all expenditures under this provision shall be made to Congress at its next session thereafter.

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